(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be installed in Ladakh region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Two VSATs have been sanctioned for installation at PADUM and NYOMA.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply given under Part (b) above.

(d) VSAT at PADUM has been installed. Satellite earth station is already working at Those for Diskit.

VASAT at Nyoma and Sanku is likely to be installed during 1997-98 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

Supply of Pure Quality of Coal by CIL to SAIL

969. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 17, 1996 captioned "SAIL not to pay for CIL's inefficiency";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that several public sector steel plants have been forced to close down production due to the price and quality of coal being supplied by CIL;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) the names of the plants which have decided to close down?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Promotion of Tourism in States

970. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme-wise amount provided by the Union Government to the States during the current year;

(b) whether the hilly States have sent any schemes for the promotion of tourism; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). During the current financial year the Department of Tourism has identified projects amounting to Rs. 3389.43 lakhs for Financial Assistant's to State/ Union Territory Govts. including the Hilly States. The funds to the State Governments are released on receipt of detailed project proposals.

[English]

Expenditure Incurred on Gauge Conversion

971. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state : the total expenditure incurred on conversion of gauges, providing new lines and additional trains during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : The details are as under :

New Lines		Gauge Conversion
93-94	- 213.41 crs.	815.13 crs.
94-95	- 193.61 crs.	1180.29 crs.
95-96	- 209.00 crs.	1174.97 crs.
Total	616.02 crs.	3170.39 crs.

Expenditure incurred on introduction of trains is not maintained.

Railways do not maintain information on expenditure incurred Statewise.

Acute Shortage of Personnel in I.A.

972. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Pilots Commanders, Instructors in the Indian Airlines, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to overcome the shortage of commanders :

- Appointment of contractual Pilots.
- Reappointment of Pilots who had earlier left Indian Airlines.
- New agreement for revision in career pattern, providing for swifter command/conversion training.
- Appointment of B-737 Commanders from the open market.
- Promotion of Pilots to Executive cadre, resulting in increase in flyinghours, flexibility